

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A handheld piezoelectric acupuncture stimulator with a pen-like, substantially ~~electrically insulating~~ exterior casing (1) , at one end of which an actuator button (5) is mounted, while the other end is provided with a contact pin (9) retracted from an end surface (3) intended for contact with the skin in an acupuncture zone, said contact pin being connected with a first electrode (19) of a piezoelectric converter (18), the second electrode (20) of which is in electrical connection, on one hand, with a hand contact (7) and is mechanically operable, on the other hand, by means of a spring-loaded impact hammer (23) operated by the actuator button (5) for generation of a high-voltage electric pain relieving pulse with a low energy content, characterized in that the piezoelectric converter (18) is mounted together with said first and second electrodes (19, 20) and said impact hammer (23) with associated spring system, which comprises an actuator compression spring (25) and a return spring (27), in a common electrically insulating interior casing (8) designed

for form-fit mounting in the substantially electrically insulating exterior casing (1) with said contact pin (9) being retained with a comparatively short, protruding length at one end of the interior casing (8), at the other end of which a longitudinally displaceable impact hammer actuator (16) is mounted, said actuator being mechanically connected with the actuator button (5), whereby the electric connection between the second electrode (20) of the piezoelectric converter (18) and said hand contact (7) comprises a leaf spring contact (10), which projects through the interior casing (8) and extends between said interior casing and the exterior casing (1) for establishing contact with the hand contact (7) which is designed as a contact ring.

2. (Original) An acupuncture stimulator according to claim 1, characterized in that the leaf spring contact (10) with a bent end portion (11) is fixed in a recess (12) at the free edge of an end member (13) of the exterior casing (1), said end member serving as a support for the contact ring (7).

3. (Original) An acupuncture stimulator according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the actuator button (5) is mounted in a top member (4) placed in extension of the exterior casing (1) and the contact ring (7) and having a protruding abutment (6) as support for the forefinger knuckle

Appln. No. 10/019,722
Amdt. dated September 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 22, 2004

of the user, when the actuator button (5) is operated by the thumb.